



CORNY'S CORNER

Overshot Passes

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The pass from a team's first hit ideally should be placed close to the net with room and flexibility for a setter to run the offense. Sometimes the ball will be overpassed toward the top of the net, putting the offensive team in jeopardy. Of all the playing situations, an overpass presents the greatest possibility for a violation, especially if the setter is a back row player.

Pointers. The team on offense should not expect you to bail it out for its passing error. Once any part of the ball enters the extended vertical plane of the net, either team has equal right to play the ball. If it is not conclusive when the opponents contacted the ball in relation to its entrance into the plane of the net, deducing the ball entered the plane is prudent. If the offensive team begs to differ, confidently indicate the ball was in the plane by pointing one entire hand parallel to the top of the net.

Ball handling. Don't overlook ball handling during the quick ensuing action. Zero in on the setter's hands contacting the ball to judge ball handling. Don't be swayed by the setter's likely awkward positioning and other irrelevant factors. Be alert for the possibility of an overpass when played being pinned against the side of the net. That's a "held ball" violation.

Over the net. If any of the following occurs, it's a "reaching over the net" violation.

- If no part of the ball has entered the plane of the net, an opponent cannot block the ball while the offensive team still has a legal and realistic chance to play the ball, nor can an opponent attack the ball.
- A player cannot make interfering contact with an opponent attempting to play a ball which is either in the plane of the net or entirely on that opponent's side of the net.
- A player cannot play a ball that has traversed entirely onto the opponents' side of the net.

Illegal back row attack. A back row player jumping from on or in front of the attack line might contact a ball completely above the height of the net and direct it toward the opponents' court. If the ball then is blocked by an opponent or completely crosses the plane of the net, it's an "illegal back row attack" violation by the setter.

Illegal back row block. When an opponent directs the ball into a back row setter who had any part of the entire body above the height of the net sometime during the play, it's an "illegal back row block" violation by the setter. The same applies for simultaneous ball contact by a back row setter and an opponent while the ball is in the plane of the net.

Legal actions. If a back row setter never had any part of the body above the height of the net and the ball is directed by an opponent into the setter, the setter's contact is considered the first team hit and play continues. When two opposing front row players simultaneously vie for a ball in the plane of the net, play continues on this joust. Likewise for when a back row setter:

- Contacts a ball not completely above the height of the net regardless of resultant direction of the ball, or

- Contacts the ball completely above the height of the net, directs it toward a teammate, and the ball enters the plane of the net and is blocked while in the plane by an opponent.

The often fast and furious pace at the net for an overpass requires concentration and instant judgment. Facilitate your decisions by being familiar with the proper rulings for the myriad potential playing actions.